

Draft
(not yet approved)

Minutes of the Solid Waste Committee October 19, 2006

Present: Pat Church, Chair; Susan Waite, Recycling Coordinator; Harvey Allen, Marianne Lorenzelli, Clare Bertrand, Meg Vickery; Lucy McMurrer, possible new member; Bob Pariseau, Director of Waste Water Resources (former Acting Superintendent of Public Works).

Pat began introducing Lucy to the committee and the projects we have been working on, such as the Business Recycling Survey, school composting and hauler regulations.

- 1) The second paragraph of the minutes from August was revised by Susan. The committee approved the new version. The minutes from September were approved with minor corrections.
- 2) A letter to Steve Braun thanking him for his work on the composting video was circulated and all members signed it. Susan will deliver it and an Earth Machine Composter to his home later this week.
- 3) Susan reported that the Energy Fair was very successful and got very good reviews. We sold 4 or 5 composters and many handouts were distributed. 50 counter-top composting buckets were given away.
- 4) Susan reported that the school composting contract with Triple T trucking is up for renewal.
- 5) Susan reported that the high school's Environmental Action Club is planning a trash audit to review how much is trash/compost or recyclable. This should raise awareness about the issue. On a similar note, Wildwood School is working on organizing a Recycling Rangers club.
- 6) Susan reported on her visit to the MRF and shared with the committee some remarkable statistics about the amount that is recycled and where it all goes. The Town received another check from the MRF for \$21,000 to share with UMASS for the recyclables which we send to them. The MRF is running a free computer collection day on Nov. 4th, if you bring an unopened toy for needy children for Christmas.
- 7) Business Recycling Survey/ Strategy. The committee hashed out what our specific goals are for this issue. Clare stressed the need for clarity so our work is direct and effective. It was agreed that we want to increase recycling in town and to start on a small and manageable level, using the image of the company and lots of public praise for those involved.

Susan suggested that we work with a few businesses and apply for MRF mini-grant money to create recognition/PR window stickers for businesses which recycle. The

idea was to approach 10 businesses that do not currently recycle and find several willing to start pilot programs. Bob recommended that we divide businesses into categories to better cater to their needs. Clare pointed out the complexities of cost, regulations and incentives that we should keep in mind.

Meg suggested that each member get 10 brochures to deliver by hand to managers at businesses and get a sense of which would be interested in participating in a pilot program and then report back to the committee. Those interested would then be contacted by Susan to set up a workable program. There would be different packets of information for different recycling programs (i.e. paper recycling, restaurant composting etc.) It was agreed to start with paper recycling.

Susan will write up a page for us to take to businesses with a high paper use and Clare will go through a database to ID paper-generating businesses. Meg will bring a draft of a speech to take into businesses to present our ideas.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15. The next meeting is scheduled for November 9th.

Respectfully submitted,

Meg Vickery, clerk pro tem